

EXHIBIT

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DATE

2.1.07

HB

232

House Bill 232  
February 1, 2007  
Presented by Jeff Hagener  
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP opposes HB 232 which would entitle nonresidents 62 years of age or older to free fishing and upland game bird, not including wild turkey, hunting. Passage of HB 232 would reduce FWP's revenue by \$933,640 annually. This would result in either an earlier than anticipated increase in license fees, or a loss of services currently provided by FWP.

Many states offer reduced fees for resident and nonresident youth as an incentive for youth participation in hunting and fishing but offer no reduction in nonresident license fees for individuals age 62 and older. Our neighboring states of Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota do not offer reduced license fees for nonresident seniors. Since our neighboring states do not reciprocate with free or discounted senior licenses, Montana seniors would not be offered the same opportunity.

We urge the committee's opposition of this bill.